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IN RE APPLICATION OF: Kazushige OHNO, et al.

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REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTS CITED IN INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application for patent, notice is hereby given that applicant(s) request that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the International Search Report according to MPEP §609 and so indicate by a statement in the first Office Action that the information has been considered. When the Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates both the search report and copies of the documents are present in the national stage file, there is no requirement for the applicant(s) to submit them (1156 O.G. 91 November 23, 1993).

Respectfully submitted,

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010136 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl⁷ B01D39/20, B01J35/04, B01D53/86 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B01D39/20, B01J35/04 Int.Cl7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004 1926-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1996-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1971-2004 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category* 1,5,6 JP 8-12460 A (Osamu YAMAMOTO), Y 2-4 16 January, 1996 (16.01.96), Α Claim 1; Par. Nos. [0001] to [0003]; examples (Family: none) 1,5,6 JP 8-290963 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Υ. 2-4 Co., Ltd.), Α 05 November, 1996 (05.11.96), Par. Nos. [0016] to [0019] (Family: none) JP 2002-336627 A (Mitsui & Co., Ltd.),
26 November, 2002 (26.11.02), 1-6 Α Claims; Par. No. [0033]; Fig. 1 (Family: none) See patent family annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. later document published after the international filing date or priority Special categories of cited documents: date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive earlier application or patent but published on or after the international "E" filing date step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is "L" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other considered to involve an inventive step when the document is special reason (as specified) combined with one or more other such documents, such combination document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means being obvious to a person skilled in the art document published prior to the international filing date but later than document member of the same patent family the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 November, 2004 (22.11.04) 02 November, 2004 (02.11.04) Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Telephone No.